



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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February 19, 1987

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
P402 459 472

Mr. Michael Glasson
Andalex Coal Company
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

FILE COPY

Dear Mr. Glasson:

Re: Raptor Protection on Power Lines, Wildcat Loadout Facility,
ACT/007/033, Folder No. 2, Carbon County, Utah

Pursuant to UMC 817.97(c), electric power lines are to be designed and constructed according to approved guidelines for raptor protection. Current Division policy states that for new power lines, or when old power lines are replaced, raptor protection technology shall be employed. Existing power lines may be modified to meet raptor protection criteria or, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may perform a survey and recommend modification of some or all of the poles.

Since the power line at the Wildcat loadout was in existence when it was determined that the Division had jurisdiction over the facility, the Division will consider the power lines as existing for the purposes of applying the policy. A letter from the USFWS dated October 3, 1984 indicated that USFWS had reviewed a power line design and recommended a 4" gap in the ground wire 38 to 46 inches below the lowest conductor.

Upon contacting the USFWS, it was indicated that they had not inspected the poles, nor was there any evidence that the design they had reviewed was utilized. Subsequently, the USFWS authorized Reclamation Biologist, Lynn Kunzler to inspect the power line and to make a final recommendation based on this inspection.

On February 3, 1987, Mr. Kunzler visited the site to inspect the power line (memo attached). After discussing the inspection with the USFWS, the following recommendations can be made:

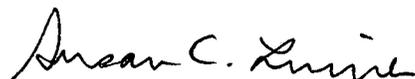
Page 2
Mr. Michael Glasson
ACT/007/033
February 18, 1987

If the top phase conductor is less than 3 feet from the top of the pole, then a 4 inch gap in the ground wire is to be made 38 to 46 inches below the lowest phase conductor. A 4 inch gap is to be made between the top phase conductor and the static wire if the distance between these two wires is less than 2 feet and the top phase conductor is within 3 feet of the top of the pole. If the distance from the top conductor to the top of the pole is greater than 3 feet, no modification is required. Actual distances were not determined at the time of the inspection.

Andalex Resources should determine what, if any modification is needed and complete all necessary modifications by March 30, 1987. This directive is for all power lines owned or controlled by Andalex for supplying power to the Wildcat Facility. It is requested that the distances be documented within the permit application for the site. In the interim Andalex should notify the Division of all changes made by March 30, 1987.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Lynn Kunzler or myself.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Linner
Reclamation Biologist/
Permit Supervisor

jvb
Enclosure
cc: D. Lof
0141R-5

February 17, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Raptor Protection on Power lines, Andelex Resources Inc., Wildcat Loadout Facility, ACT/007/033, Carbon Co. Utah.

In a letter dated October 3, 1984, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommended certain modifications to the design of powerpoles to be constructed at the Wildcat Loadout Facility to assure raptor protection. After searching the files of Andelex and calling the USFWS, it was apparent that compliance with the USFWS recommendations had never been verified. Further, it could not be determined whether the design the USFWS had reviewed in 1984 was utilized in the construction of the powerline. In discussing the matter with Mr. Bruce Wadell, USFWS, I was requested to make an onsite inspection of the constructed powerline, and determine the extent of raptor protection technology applied.

On February 3, 1986, I met with Mike Glasson of Andelex to inspect the powerline at the Wildcat facility. All poles from the double switch pole on the main line were inspected.

Findings:

The pole north of the substation was the only pole that had a crossarm. The crossarm on this pole was metal and the ground wire was attached. This represented a potential hazard that needs correction. After the inspection it was discovered that Andelex did not have control over this pole (Utah Power and Light has control on all poles from the main line to the substation). The USFWS will discuss the nature of this pole with UP&L for corrective measures.

All poles under control of Andelex were constructed utilizing an armless design with the phases alternating the sides of the pole. A static wire was located near the top of the poles and a ground wire on each pole appeared to be connected to the static wire. Generally, an armless design is considered safe. However, in this situation, a potential hazard would exist if the top phase is within 3 feet of the top of the pole since the ground wire extends to the top of the pole. This can be easily corrected by providing a 4-inch gap in the ground wire below the phase conductors.

Memo to File
ACT/007/033
February 17, 1987
Page 2

The findings of this inspection were discussed with the USFWS for their recommendations of any corrective measures that should be required. As per a phone conversation with Mr. Bruce Wadell, USFWS, the following recommendation was made:

If the top phase conductor is less than three feet from the top of the pole, a 4-inch gap in the ground wire should be made between 38 inches and 46 inches below the lowest phase conductor. If the distance between the top phase conductor and the static wire is also less than two feet, a 4-inch gap in the ground wire should also be made between the top phase and the static wire.

Andalex will be notified of this recommendation and pursuant to current DOGM policy will be given 45 days to implement the recommendations.

CC: S. Linner
D. Lof
M. Glasson
B. Wadell

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